

ESL 220

April 18 2008

Young Women Abortion in China

Abortion is “popular” in China. I heard this in a presentation last semester. Although this sentence is not a positive fact, it’s true that abortion is not strange to our generation in China. I see abortion advertisements on the bus, TV, and even in university restrooms. Abortion used to be considered to help married women comply with the family planning policy in China (Yardley 11). But “the face of abortion” has changed to young and single women who were not familiar faces to abortion until Chinese society changed in recent years (Yardley 11). This is an abnormal situation. Why do so many young and single women have abortions? Considering all of the information, lack of sex education and the convenience of abortion provider are most common reasons.

Lack of sex education is most crucial reason. Without appropriate sex education, they didn’t have effective contraceptive measures which directly leads to unplanned pregnancy. According to a survey in Shanghai, only 15 percentages high-school students had received sex education from their parents and teachers (Watts 1208). Parents and teachers think that sex is a subject that they are “too embarrassed to broach” (Watts 1208). Although government has law that obliges schools to provide sex education in September 2002, government still has a lot of work to do (Watts 1208). My generation has a special characteristic: we grew up in a country “unmoored from the values, and inhibitions, of

traditional culture” (Yardley 11). Compared to my father’s generation, my generation has different ideas about the world. Our ideas about sex are also more open than in former generation. The government paid far more attention to control the second child of married women who obey the one-child policy in China. At the same time, the government ignored necessary sex education for unmarried women (Yardley 11). According to this, lack of sex education is basic a factor in why young single women have abortions.

Another major reason is that there are so many abortion providers in China, including abortion clinics, private hospitals and public hospitals (Yardley 11). It is so “convenient” to have abortions. Pregnant women even didn’t need show ID when they have abortion (Sun). The price is not so expensive that even students can afford it. In cities like Beijing, women paid an average of \$65 to have an abortion (Yardley 11). Even more, some private hospitals treat abortion as a potential market which can create huge profits. They advertise their service as “Painless Abortions” or “The Model Abortion for a New Generation” (Yardley 11). Some private clinics “distribute fliers on university campuses,” some of them even with student coupons (Yardley 11). Although the government banned abortion advertisements, the ads still appear in some newspapers in another way, like “women health care”, “women special care”. Because of so many abortion providers, young “couples” don’t need to worry about how to deal with unplanned pregnancy.

As we all know, abortion was used as an effective way to help the Chinese government to keep the one-child policy in China. But in recent years, the group of women who have abortions has changed to young and single women. The lack of sex education and the convenience of abortion are two crucial factors in this situation. Abortion is not a happy

thing, and can have very bad effects on women and their future babies (“Complications...”
pars 1-21). I hope government will do something before the problem gets worse.

Works Cited

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